

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 23712 151746Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 109288

R 151725Z SEP 75  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3113  
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T PARIS 23712

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: X-GDS-4  
TAGS: PFOR, PO  
SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE-PRC RELATIONS

REF: STATE 216905 (EXDIS)

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A COURTESY CALL SEPT 12, PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR ANTONIO COIMBRA MARTINS RAISED SPECIFICALLY THE ADVISABILITY OF CLOSER PORTUGUESE RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. IT HAD BEEN THE LONG STANDING POLICY OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO SEEK THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. HE HAD ESTABLISHED GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH THE PRC AMBASSADOR TSENG TAO AND PRESSED FOR A PRC RESPONSE, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO REPLY YET FROM PEKING. COIMBRA MARTINS NOTED THAT SOME MODERATES IN LISBON BELIEVE THAT CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE PRC WOULD RESULT IN A MORE ACTIVE MAOIST MOVEMENT WHICH WOULD DIVIDE THE LEFT AND HENCE STRENGTHEN THE MODERATE PARTIES. COIMBRA MARTINS NOTED THAT THE MAOIST PUBLICATIONS HAD CALLED CUNHAL PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1 OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE -- AND SPINOLA ONLY NO. 8 -- AND MAOIST ELEMENTS WITHIN THE UNIONS HAD VOTED WITH THE SOCIALIST TO THWART THE PRO-SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY ELEMENTS.

2. I TOLD COIMBRA MARTINS THAT WE THOUGHT THE PRINCIPAL  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 23712 151746Z

WORLD WIDE GOAL OF THE PRC WAS TO OPPOSE THE USSR AND

THE PRC WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE TO DO SO IN PORTUGAL REGARDLESS OF THE EXISTENCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS AT THIS TIME COULD, IN FACT, INTRODUCE A NEW ELEMENT OF INSTABILITY INTO THE CURRENT UNSETTLED POLITICAL SITUATION. IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER FOR MODERATE ELEMENTS IN PORTUGAL TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM THEIR EC-9 COLLEAGUES AND THE U.S. THAN FROM THE PRC. COIMBRA MARTINS ASKED ABOUT THE FUTURE, AND I GAVE IT AS MY PERSONAL OPINION THAT WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MORE STABLE GOVERNMENT IN LISBON, THE ADVISABILITY OF PORTUGUESE/PRC RELATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IN A NEW LIGHT.

3. COIMBRA MARTINS NOTED THAT THE CHINESE, FOR THEIR PART, WERE NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MOVING AHEAD ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. I NOTED THAT PERHAPS THE PRC SAW THE GROWING STRENGTH OF THE ANTI-SOVIET ELEMENTS AND WERE THEMSELVES HESITANT TO TAKE AN ACTION WHICH MIGHT REVERSE THE TREND AND FAVOR THE SOVIET SPONSORED COMMUNIST PARTY.

4. COMMENT: I BELIEVE AMBASSADOR COIMBRA MARTINS THOROUGHLY UNDERSTOOD OUR VIEW THAT PRESSING FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PRC WAS NOT ADVISABLE AT THIS TIME AND HE SEEMED SOMEWHAT CONVINCED BY OUR VIEWS OF THE LIMITED UTILITY FOR THE MODERATE ELEMENTS AND OF THE POTENTIAL FOR HARM. COIMBRA MARTINS SEEMED SOMEWHAT DEFLATED SINCE HE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN THINKING THAT HIS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR MIGHT POSSIBLY ADVANCE THE PORTUGUESE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WHICH IN TURN WOULD FAVOR THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN LISBON TO WHICH HE IS ASSOCIATED, A PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION OF SOME IMPORTANCE. SINCE THE CHINESE DO NOT APPEAR PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS AT THIS TIME, THE PROBLEM OF RELATIONS IS PROBABLY ACADEMIC.

RUSH

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PARIS23712  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X4  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750319-0525  
**From:** PARIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750950/aaaabros.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 216905  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PORTUGUESE-PRC RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PO, CH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006